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|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/703,692 | NAKAGIRI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | King Y. Poon | 2624 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 11/22/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. The drawings filed on 02 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance ✓
9. Other _____.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to laying out print job pages onto recording medium.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13 identify the uniquely distinct features of
"successively laying out a last page of a leading print job and a first page of a trailing
print job without a gap when a first method is designated as the combine method, laying
out the first page of the trailing print job on a surface next to a surface on which the last
page of the leading print job is laid out when a second method is designated as the
combine method, and laying out the first page of the trailing print job on a sheet next to
a sheet on which the last page of the leading print job is laid out when a third method is
designated as the combine method."

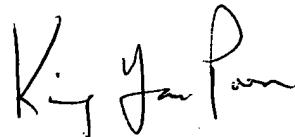
The closest prior art Gabbe et al. (US 4,928,252), teaches a conventional method of laying out print job pages onto recording medium, either singularly or in combination with other cited references fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious (when used in combine with other claimed limitations).

Successively laying out a last page of a leading print job and a first page of a trailing print job without a gap is defined at abstract, lines 6-7, and fig. 30, applicants disclosure; laying out the first page of the trailing print job on a surface next to a surface on which the last page of the leading print job is laid out is defined at page 3, lines 4-7, fig. 29, applicants disclosure; and laying out the first page of the trailing print job on a sheet next to a sheet on which the last page of the leading print job is laid out is defined at page 3, lines 8-10, page 69, lines 24-25, and fig. 28, applicants disclosure.

The application is also allowable because of the persuasive argument presented by the applicant at page 9, lines 16-23, and page 10, of the remarks filed on 11/22/2004.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892.



KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

5/26/05